How to Make New Friends in Gaming

Community NerdyBirdy Sep 2, 2022

Everyone interacts with gaming differently. For some, gaming is a solo activity best enjoyed on their own. But for others, gaming is an inherently social activity. Whether they're playing party games with all their friends sprawled across their living room or planning online raids, gaming isn't complete without their social circle.

But what if you find yourself struggling to find people to share gaming with? If you're new to the gaming scene or just looking for help finding new friends, here are some strategies and techniques to help make new friends in gaming.

How to Start Making New Gamer Friends

The first step is to consider the kinds of games you currently play and the crowds they attract. There are some essential things to look out for. For instance, while massive multiplayer online role-playing games (MMORPG) can be played solo, players often coordinate times to meet up with their favorite players. The social aspect of these cannot be overstated.

And then there are battle royale games. Games like *Fortnite* or *Apex Legends* encourage players to form squads and create teams to try to survive to the end. Building your squad is a surefire way to find yourself as part of a newly formed team.

Watch and keep track of the usernames or gamertags you have positive interactions with. If you find yourself having fun with the same group of gamers, then it's natural that you can reach out and plan your next playdate. This can also apply to any gaming channels or forums you visit on platforms like Discord.

And if you're looking for a more low-keyed introduction to the social world of gaming, games like *Sea of Thieves* and *Minecraft* use banter and community building as a gameplay feature.

If you mostly play offline single-player games, you may need to adjust your strategy slightly. While there are certainly communities that have grown around offline single-player games, these tend to be unique and generally congregate around non-gaming platforms. If you're searching for friends with these same interests, you're probably have to find them on a separate platform or environment.

Once you've made the initial connection, you can continue to invite them to play together, schedule playdates, or try new games. And finally, you can always be the catalyst for new friendships by bringing a consistently positive attitude when you play. Kindness, like sincere positive feedback or a "good game" at the end of games, matches or sessions, can go a long way.

Meeting in the Offline World

If you're the type of person who also loves attending in-person events, the gaming world is full of conventions and festivals. Conventions focused on games like "Gamescon" or Pax, are filled with gamers looking to make new connections while finding the latest news and updates in the gaming industry.

If there aren't major gaming events in your area, have no fear. Locally held events like comic conventions, pop-up e-sport events, and competitions often attract significant crowds and are usually held at local venues such as community colleges. If you're thinking about meeting a newly formed online friend in person for the first time, an in-person gaming event is a great choice.

A great way to meet and make new gamer friends is to join an established gaming community like the Xbox Ambassadors. In the Xbox Ambassadors Program, each member pledges to promote a safe and inclusive environment and make gaming fun for everyone.

For many Ambassadors, the Program is a place that "members have a safe space to geek-out and be themselves" as well as a source of community and companionship.

You can learn more about joining the Xbox Ambassadors at our website.